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ABSTRACT

A model for involving local planning and support committees in the process of planning Wisconsin county extension education programs was developed as a way of improving the planning of extension programs statewide. The key components of the planning model developed were (1) the use of influential officials and community representatives and (2) the use of a high-quality, computer-generated visuals package that profiles emerging social and demographic trends affecting families. Planning and support committees range in size from 10 to 40 members. Special emphasis was placed on getting nonusers and men involved. The model calls for the committees to take part in each year of Wisconsin's four-year planning cycle for extension education. The committees' functions during each year include discussing issues/priorities and establishing time frames and goals (year 1), receiving and commenting on feedback and brainstorming on focus questions (year 2), reviewing updated trends and county profiles and critiquing delivery methodologies (year 3), and analyzing impact data and contributing to the process evaluation (year 4). The committees have already had a positive impact after only two years of the model's implementation. (Appendixes include a series of charts on changing family data, sample meeting agendas, and a profile of trends affecting family life in Lincoln County. (MN)

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Planning amd Support Committees: An Issues-Oriented Program Planning Model

by

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Presented at American Association for Adult and Continuing Education
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Using Planning and Support Committees: An Issues-Oriented Program Planning Model

> Extension must assertively address the emerging and critical issues and needs of families through educational programs which improve the overall quality of life and contribute to the development of human capital. [1]

The Futures Task Force articulated a position shared by many: that critical needs and concerns of families must be addressed in county programs. While many county programs were addressing critical issues, county and state staff felt that the program planning process did not always identify high community priorities and instead too often generated laundry lists of local interests. Review of local planning structures in place in Wisconsin counties revealed inconsistencies. Three patterns emerged:

1. A few counties had formal county wide planning committees. Those that were in place usually viewed their role as need identification with limited on-going involvment.

2. In other counties, each program area had individual planning committees most frequently comprised of Cooperative Extension Service (CES) users who were very familiar with our work. For example, representatives of each Homemakers club or 4-H club might constitute the planning committee.

3. Each county uses the local Extension Education Committee, a sub-committee of the county board of supervisors, for advisory input but these committees comprised, predominately of white males over 65, were not reflective of the community at large and sometimes not even of the local power structure. (Extension Education Committee membership is changing as younger men and a few more women are being elected to county government positions.) In some counties, this group was viewed as part of the problem.

Other short term planning groups were also present. These groups were frequently made up of local clientele with longstanding relationships to Cooperative Extension programs such as 4-H, Extension homemakers or planning groups for special events and on-going activities like doing dairy breakfasts, and 4-H foods reviews.

The quality of input these groups provided was variable. Often it was tied to past experiences with the extension office rather than "analyzing, interpreting and making decisions about programs or situations that should be changed or improved" [2] which Boyle cites as the function of advisory committee role in the program development process. While campus based specialists were involved in providing background information to county staff about trends and issues, the information was ponderous and cumbersome. It required local staff to wade through too much material. Too often this resulted in field staff using background material ineffectively with advisors.

At the same time, Wisconsin's CES was involved in the difficult process of down-sizing. It became clear that in many counties the home economics program was tied to one major program support group, Extension Homemakers, and that group was diminishing in influence in many communities. The program's benefits were too often not widely known with non-users and influentials.

Extension Home Economists viewed themselves differently than they felt they were being viewed by others. While the Extension Home Economist viewed herself as the "family expert" in local communities she was often viewed as the resource for food preservation information or the person who worked with Homemakers. Home economists wanted a more powerful role for themselves in their communities and were seeking opportunities to develop such a role.

After analyzing the situation these problems with the present program planning system were identified:

- The quality of advice received from counties was not consistently of high quality and did not always identify important issues and community problems.
- The system did not make use of influentials who could be called on to support programs. Opinion leaders who could really assess emerging needs were used infrequently as advisors.
- The information provided advisors by CES professionals did not convey the image of the home economist as the local expert on the family, nor did it help advisors identify significant social and demographic trends that were affecting families in each county.
- The present system relied heavily on users of extension information rather than building on opportunities for participation by non-users.

It was clear that a major change in the present system was needed to make it responsive to real program needs. Thus the planning and support model for program development began.

Characteristics of the Planning and Support Committee

The planning and support committee model was designed to have these characteristics:

1. Strengthen the quality of program advisory input and increase the likelihood of high need issues being identified.
2. Allow specialists to identify emerging national and state demographic and social trends and feed them to local community based committees.
3. Localize state and county data and allow county staff to explain how state and national trends relate to each individual county.
4. Utilize community influentials and opinion leaders who are early adapters; uses these people for local support.
5. Promote multi-year planning and identification of priority issues. Encourage multi-year program delivery for issues, yet allow for fine tuning of rapidly emerging concerns.
6. Build in feedback loops which encourage evaluation results to be shared with local influentials.
7. Develop the local home economist's role as a credible and important resource about families in

the county: promote the idea of the home economist as the local "family expert."

8. Adapt easily to a multi-county approach
9. Adapt easily to a multi-program area approach.

The key components are the use of influentials and the use of a high quality computer generated visuals package that profiles emerging social and demographic trends that affect families. This set of resource materials, the Family Profile, is a collection of census data, data from state and national agencies such as the National Center for Health Statistics, the state Department of Public Instruction, and state Department of Industry, Labor, and Human Relations. The Family Profile contains visuals suitable for conversion into overhead transparencies, and a background explanation sheet for each visual. The profile uses local county data whenever such data is available. The background page provides a combination of technical and descriptive data relating to the visual as well as suggesting implications for programming that can be drawn from the data. These background explanation sheets have been critical to provide adequate background information to the field staff who use the profile, staff whose backgrounds vary with respect to their familiarity and comfort with demographic data. (For more information on the profile and some examples, see Appendix A.) The Family Profile is a critical component of this program development model. It has been accepted and used eagerly by the county-based Extension Home Economists primarily because it comes to them with local state and national data in a ready to use form. A strong emphasis is placed on localizing the state and national data to assist planning committee members in understanding their relationship to state and local trends.

Implementing the System

At the beginning of the last four year planning cycle a small group of county and campus based staff were assigned to serve as an overall planning group for the program area. Unlike some planning groups they identified the planning process and delivery as being of equal importance to the content priorities. The planning and support model was introduced and quickly adopted as the program area planning model. The model itself follows:

EHE Role

Identify opinion leaders
Localize Trends data and County Profile
Personally invite opinion leaders to serve on committee

Planning Committee Role

Analyze and review Trends
Prepare for meeting

Year One: Program Planning Meeting

EHE Role

Explain EHE role in community
Present local Trends and County Profile
Facilitate process

Mid-year feedback loop:
Send feedback on progress to committee members.
Include:
A. Completed POW summary
B. Progress to date
C. Immediate plans
D. Program announcements

Goal: Identify 4-Year program priorities based on community needs

Committee Role

Discuss Issues/Concerns
Priorities Issues/Concerns
Establish tame frame
Establish short & long term goals

Receive feedback
Comments back to EHE as appropriate
Some members may further participate in the development of issues, Plans of Action, and Program Implementation

Year Two: Program Planning Meeting

EHE Role		Committee Role
Review progress/successes Share updated Family Profile Develop and share with committee Focus Question(s) for planning meeting (see Focus Questions handout) Facilitate process Mid-year feedback loop: Provide feedback on progress to committee	*Goals:* ***A. Review progress to date.*** ***B. Pursue Focus Question(s)***	Comment on feedback Brainstorm on Focus Question Develop Focus Priority Plan of Action Receive feedback Continue involvement in on-going program

Year Three: Program Planning Meeting

EHE Role		Committee Role
Review local Trends and Family Profile Update Facilitate process Promote program results Recognize contributions of committee members Identify support needed and received Mid-year feedback loop	*Goals:* ***A. Review Trends and County Profile. Are issues still on track?*** ***B. Analyze effectiveness of program delivery strategies and evaluation strategies.*** ***C. Build on program support role.***	Review updated Trends and County Profile Respond to feedback Critique delivery methodology and use of evaluation results. Identify additional evaluation results needed Develop Program Support Action Plan

Year Four: Program Planning Meeting

EHE Role		Committee Role
Share program impact Recognize committee members Recognise contribution of committee members Review progress of committee Involve committee in evaluation process Charge committee with continuing support role Release committee	*Goals:* ***A. Assess progress on priorities*** ***B. Develop closure on priorities where sufficient progress has occurred*** ***C. Prepare recommendations for next committee of unfinished business***	Analyze impact data Recommend procedures for sharing results and impacts Contribute to evaluation of the process

Two types of supportive training are provided to field staff as the model has been implemented. First, each year a training session is conducted with the Extension Home Economists in each administrative district (about fifteen home economists per session). The training session provides the Extension Home Economists an outline of how to conduct the planning and support committee meeting including agenda and other support materials (see Appendix B), an opportunity to share their experiences with the model and the influentials committee. Specialized training has been conducted by district meetings or by Educational Telecommunications Network to improve county staff skills as they use the Family Profile.

Membership of Planning and Support committees

Planning and support committees vary in size from 10 to 40 members. Membership includes:

- Elected officials including:
  - state representatives
  - county board of supervisors
  - a former mayor
  - city council persons
  - in some cases the assistant to the politician (or the politician's spouse)
  - school adminstrators, guidance counselors or, in a few cases, teachers
- business leaders including chamber of commerce representatives
- leaders in service groups especially men's groups
- selected agency personnel
- clergy
- representatives from "traditional " clientele—users
- medical and health professionals
- media representatives

Committee members were chosen by asking influentials to suggest other influentials. Those identified most frequently were assumed to be "family influentials." Special emphasis was placed on getting non-users (by far the greatest majority of committee members) and men. Agency people when used, were asked to serve because they were influentials, not merely representatives of their agency.

Results

After two years of working with this program planning model these changes have occurred:

1. Statewide program priorities identified changed. Priorities identified were more closely related to community, state, and national issues. Statewide, fewer major program plans were written in food and nutrition areas and more were written in human development and family life education. Those that were writtten in food and nutrition most often dealt with diet and health issues, fewer identified food preservation or food preparation as high priorities.

2. "Strenghtening families" was the most frequently cited high priority. Of particular concern was the dual work family and its program needs. The identified need for community child care options led to major new programming in community child care needs assessments. It was not uncommon for the employers on the planning and support committees to lead the charge in identifying child care as a problem they faced as employers. This added to the Extension Home Economist's credibility in developing programs in this area. In several cases this type of program emphasis was identified and implemented even though the Extension Home Economist did not initially favor getting involved in the issue herself. In some cases the issue areas identified required major retraining for the home economist.

3. The close relationship between the family and youth aspects of a number of concerns were obvious to the advisors and to the field staff. In five counties the 4-H Youth Development Agents and Extension Home Economists worked together with one planning and support committee. The results were uniformly good, demonstrating the potential for the process to be effective CES-wide.

4. Three Extension Home Economists with multi-county responsibilities developed a "multicounty committee" with good success. Multi-county use is important as more Extension Home Economists have responsibilities for more than one county.

5. The process strengthened Extension Home Economists' political base in the community. One Extension Home Economist noted that she now receives calls every couple of months from her state representative asking her advice about legislation relating to families. Two Extension Home Economists sent a copy of the In Profile, a summary of county data about families (Appendix C) to their congressman, David Obey, and were surprised when they received a call from his office requesting the information for each county in his district. Needless to say, those counties which had not compiled an In Profile did so quickly.

6. Committee members frequently continued active involvement throughout the year as members of groups working on identified priorities. For example, a number of planning and support committee members became the nucleus for the development of community child care needs assessments. In another county, when a 4-H or home economics position was to be cut, a planning and support committee member called all members ot the Extension Education Committee to voice support for the family prevention programming being done by the Extension Home Economist and how that programming complemented the 4-H programming. Since we are now in the second year of the process, we expect this type of support to increase.

Reponses from Extension Home Economists include:

"Most of the influential people on my Planning and Support Committee had not previously been CES clientele. The Family Profile materials were most helpful increasing a positive image of UWEX. It was the most forward thinking committee I've ever worked with."

"It caused me to make contact with many new groups that I hadn't worked with before...more influential groups."

"The four year plan made sense to me for the first time. It became very important ."

"The Extension Agriculture & Education Committee had an opportunity to sit with people they respect and see *family* needs be identified as important concerns."

"We had wonderful coverage by local media. The radio station news reporter featured the EHE several times during news reports. Local data on families was well received by the radio and newspaper."

"'Important people' saw me as the family expert. Having the state legislator on the committee made a difference."

"Why haven't we been doing it this way for years and years?"

7. Higher priority audiences were targeted by the planning committees. For example, more emphasis was placed on "financial management for young families" legitimizing Extension Home Economists focusing more narrowly and away from traditional audiences when no longer appropriate for the priority.

Integration into Ongoing Statewide Planning Process

The planning and support model has brought about changes in the state planning process. While the on-going nature of the local committees' responsibilities allows for easy identification of emerging unexpected issues (response to the drought might be one example), the focus is on longer term program responses. Field staff no longer generate "want lists" for specialists' immediate response. More emphasis is placed on sequential programmatic responses to important issues. More attention is placed on delivery methodology and sharing program results. In year three for example, the committee's work deals primarily with delivery methods and sharing evaluation results.

The Family Profile is fully implemented into the statewide planning system to the extent that county based faculty work with state staff to identify priorities to be included in the Family Profile much as they would for other resource materials. From a state staff perspective, the planning and support model and the Family Profile allow for effective integration of state and national trends with local concerns. By localizing the data to the greatest extent possible, local advisors more clearly "own" local problems and see the relationship between their local community with national and state trends. This issues approach to programming has resulted in many positive outcomes. Perhaps the primary negative outcome is that the process was instituted in only one program area rather than across program areas institutionally.

Adaptations Necessary to Use the Process Across Program Areas

If Cooperative Extension Service is serious about wanting to conduct "issues programs" then the program planning process must be multi-disciplinary. The model described in this paper could readily be adopted to a multi-disciplinary approach. What would be required is thoughtful attention to preparation of adequate background information for advisors. The Family Profile could be expanded into a "community profile" which would include a broader base of information about what is happening in all segments of the community. Much of this data is already in the profile since employment, housing and work force information is all a part of what families are like in a community. However, additional data would be needed. County faculty could cooperatively work with influentials to identify and implement programs that would allow us to fully utilize the potential within Cooperative Extension for developing issues-based educational programs.

Footnotes

1. Boyle, Patrick G. *Planning Better Programs*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1981.
2. Extension In Transition: Bridging the Gap Between Vision and Reality. Report of the Futures Task Force to the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy. November, 1987.

Appendix A

Our Changing Family Profile

A Family Data Chart series

By
Robert Young, Ph. D.

University of Wisconsin-Extension
Cooperative Extension Service
Family Living Education

What is *Our Changing Family Profile?*

- A Series of visuals (charts and graphs)
- A way to describe the current status of families
- A statistical summary of family trends
- A teaching packet that includes source and background information that helps you to intepret the data, and to consider the implications

How is it Used by Extension Educators?

- In "Status of the Family" presentations
- To inform the public in interesting news articles and radio spotlights
- Portions are used to preface talks and workshops
- Sections are handed out in meetings as fact sheets to spark discussion and inquiry

What Kinds of Data Does it Include?

- Current population statistics and figures on household composition
- Family and household income, expenditures, and labor force participation
- Figures on caregiving to children and older adults
- Natality, marriage, divorce and death statistics and much more.

How can I find out more about Wisconsin's Changing Family Profile?

Call a Family Living Education representative at 608-262-1411, or write Robert Young Ph.D., University of Wisconsin Extension, 610 Langdon St. #428, Madison, WI 53703.

How is *Our Changing Family Profile* Being Used?

What Audiences?

Advisory Committees

County boards and town councils

Legislators

WACEC districts

Lay Leaders groups

School boards & school committees

Clergy groups

Family service agency personnel

Extension Homemakers

4-H Leaders

Community organizations

Home Economics teachers

Wisconsin Home Economists Association

General public

What Methods?

Presentations

Two-page profiles

Intros to workshops

Newspaper articles

Newsletter inserts

Handouts at meetings

"Snippets" in letters and on enclosure slips

Our Changing Family Profile

List of Visuals

New visuals are indicated by the use of ***bold italics.***
Re-made visuals are indicated with an asterisk(*).

What Are Today's Families Like?

1	1980 Population and Projected Population for Year 2000 by Age Groups
1A	Percent Change in Population Age Groups, Wisconsin 1980-2000
2	Number and Percent of Households in Your County by Type
2A	Percent of Households Headed by Persons 65 Years or Over
2B	Percent of Households Headed by Persons 65 Years of Age or Over (table)
2C	***School Years Completed (Persons 25 Years and Older)***
2D	***Wisconsin and U.S. Birth Rate ,1960-1986***

Where Do They Live and Work?

3	Percent of County Population Living in Rural Areas
4	Income of Employees and Proprietors by Industry, 1980-1984

How Do They Fare?

5	Income Measures for U.S. Population, 1966-1985
5A	Per Capita Income Estimates for Wisconsin Counties, 1979-1983
5B	Per Capita Income Estimates for Wisconsin Counties, 1979-1983 (Sorted by 1983 Income)
6	Median Family Income by Family Type
7	Labor Force Status of Women by Presence and Age of Own Children
8	Labor Force Participation Rates of Mothers
9	Annual Civilian Employment and Unemployment
10	Unemployment from 1975-1985
11	Unemployment in the U.S., 1982
****12***	***Poverty Status of Families in 1979 by Presence and Age of Children***
12A	***Poverty Status of Families with Female Head by Presence and Age of Children***

Where Does Their Money Go?

*14	***Average Annual Household Expenditures of Midwest Households, 1905***
15	Source of Funds for Health Care Expenditures of persons Age 65 or Over, 1984
16	Percent of Home Improvement Expenditures by Do-It-Yourselfers Versus Contractors
16A	***Weekly Per Person Spending for Food Away From Home by Household Income***
16B	***Where the Food Dollar Goes at Home Versus Away***

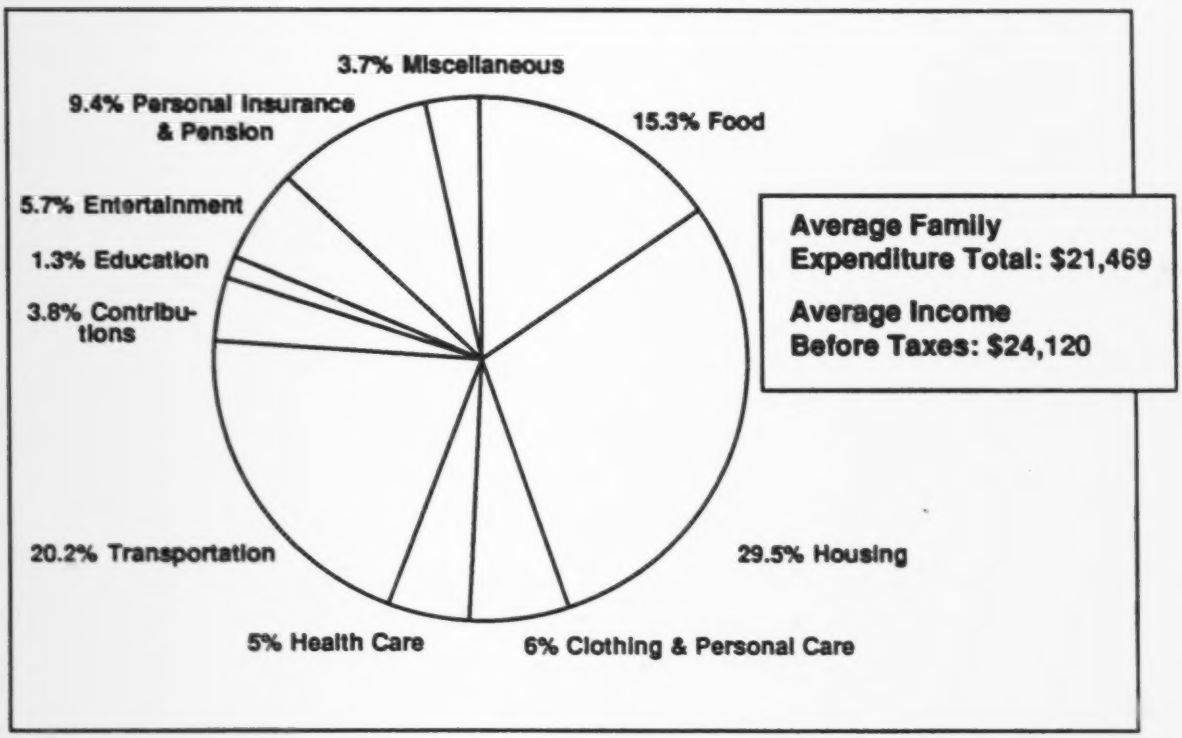
How Do They Provide for Family Members?

17	Child Care Arrangements of Full-time Employed Mothers of Children Under Age 6
17A	***Primary Child Care Arrangements of Preschool Children, 1984-85***
18	After School Arrangements and Supervision of 5th and 6th Graders in the U.S., 1984
18A	After School Arrangements and Supervision of 8th and 9th Graders in the U.S., 1984
19	Living Arrangements of Elderly in Wisconsin
19A	***Elderly-headed Households With at Least One Member with a Health Problem or Mobility Limitation***
19B	***Nursing Home Use Rate of Older Population by Age, Wisconsin 1978-1985***
19C	***Percentage of Persons Age 65 and Over with Functional Limitations***
19D	***Percent of Income Spent for Food in U.S. Households, 1986***

What Problems Do They Face?

20	Food Prepared and Eaten at Home Versus Away from Home, 1960-85
*21	***Leading Causes of Death***
21A	***Obesity and Superobesity in Children Ages 6-11 in the U.S.***
21B	***Percent of Adults in Wisconsin Who Were Overweight in 1984***
21C	***Mortality Ratios by Weight Index***
22A	***Nutrients in Diets of High- and Low-Income Women, 1985***
22B	***Calcium, Iron, and Zinc in Women's Diets, 1985***
23	***Change in Family Income Distribution, 1973-1984***
24A	***Consumer Debt by Age of Family Head, 1960 and 1983***
24B	***Decline in Personal Saving Rate***
25	***Annual Wisconsin HMO Enrollment, 1982-1986***

Average Annual Expenditures of Midwest Households, 1985



Source: 1985 Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

University of Wisconsin-Extension
Cooperative Extension Service
Family Living Education

Visual Number: 14 - Replacement

Title: Annual Expenditures of Midwest Households, 1985

Type: Pie Chart

Year of Data Collection: 1985

Population of Data Collection:

These are midwestern data from a national 1985 Consumer Expenditure Survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Consumer Expenditure Survey uses national probability samples of households designed to be representative of the U.S. civilian population. There were 6,970 households interviewed in the midwest.

Definitions:

Entertainment: Includes recreational reading expenditures.

Housing: Includes utilities, household operations, furnishings and equipment. Note that utilities, fuel and public services alone account for 8.0% of total expenditures, or 28% of total housing costs.

Miscellaneous: Includes tobacco and alcoholic beverages, and other.

Limitations:

These data are averages for households regardless of whether or not a particular household incurred an expense for that specific item during the recordkeeping period. The average expenditure for an item may be much lower than the expenditure by those households that purchased the item. The less frequently an item is purchased, the greater the difference between the average for all households and the average of those purchasing.

An individual household may spend more or less than the average, depending on its particular characteristics. Factors such as income, age of family members, geographic location, taste and personal preference also influence expenditures. Furthermore, even within groups with similar characteristics, the distribution of expenditures varies substantially. These points should be considered when relating reported averages to individual circumstances.

Other Background:

Bureau of Labor Statistics data show that 1985 household spending for new and used cars and trucks increased over 1984. Expenditures for gasoline

(Continued - over)

and motor oil declined slightly while prices remained stable. Entertainment expenditures showed an increase. Nationally, a 15% increase in consumer spending for TV's, VCR's, radios and sound equipment contributed to the rise in entertainment expenditures from 1984 to 1985.

Trends/Implications:

As programs address family expenditure patterns it is useful to look at the family's expenditures in relation to the average. We need to always recognize individual differences and preferences (see Limitations above). The averages can be considered a rough guide to help people recognize ways to allocate their expenses. Housing clearly accounts for the greatest proportion of expenditures, followed by transportation and food.

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UWEX, Family Living Education

Divorces and Annulments and Children Affected
Wisconsin Counties, 1983-1986

County	1983 Divorces & Annulments		1984 Divorces & Annulments			1985 Divorces & Annulments			1986 Divorces & Annulments		
	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Children Affected	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Children Affected	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Children Affected
WISCONSIN	16,503	3.48	16,625	3.49	18,410	16,596	3.48	18,016	16,395	3.42	17,950
Adams	33	2.32	47	3.25	51	41	2.79	35	40	2.70	39
Ashland	68	4.00	56	3.28	60	59	3.51	61	78	4.68	81
Barron	169	4.22	160	3.95	217	156	3.87	202	164	4.08	238
Bayfield	54	3.79	52	3.64	85	57	3.99	53	65	4.63	99
Brown	591	3.24	621	3.34	678	674	3.58	701	712	3.80	698
Buffalo	45	3.10	25	1.71	29	41	2.80	53	31	2.15	23
Burnett	66	5.26	55	4.33	57	45	3.31	41	49	3.58	67
Calumet	60	1.80	93	2.72	98	73	2.11	92	79	2.27	98
Chippewa	174	3.26	171	3.16	220	186	3.47	234	191	3.54	263
Clark	101	3.10	90	2.75	116	70	2.17	81	88	2.77	152
Columbia	157	3.59	160	3.64	184	153	3.43	149	134	2.99	147
Crawford	46	2.79	56	3.34	89	53	3.23	84	43	2.63	51
Dane	1228	3.59	1255	3.58	1134	1278	3.74	1158	1260	3.69	1155
Dodge	176	2.29	213	2.74	247	193	2.44	236	251	3.28	275
Door	86	3.26	71	2.64	71	73	2.69	75	93	3.39	117
Douglas	178	4.03	170	3.89	185	170	3.92	222	147	3.43	153
Dunn	95	2.71	92	2.61	136	99	2.75	143	106	2.94	114
Eau Claire	311	3.83	314	3.83	310	320	3.89	353	326	3.89	340
Florence	11	2.56	15	3.33	11	22	4.84	20	10	2.20	7
Fond du Lac	308	3.38	305	3.30	359	278	3.01	293	263	2.91	305
Forest	23	2.51	31	3.37	44	21	2.22	19	28	2.99	37
Grant	126	2.42	126	2.41	164	140	2.64	181	132	2.50	169
Green	98	3.22	86	2.80	112	94	3.06	93	118	3.84	130
Green Lake	56	2.99	59	3.12	85	73	3.89	89	67	3.57	94
Iowa	73	3.60	54	2.64	85	48	2.27	63	46	2.23	50
Iron	16	2.46	21	3.28	25	13	1.94	21	21	3.13	27
Jackson	51	3.17	57	3.54	70	61	3.81	76	73	4.62	93
Jefferson	247	3.65	207	3.03	237	248	3.57	289	268	4.01	318
Juneau	68	3.19	81	3.78	123	82	3.75	100	95	4.34	114
Kenosha	523	4.34	542	4.51	551	487	4.03	448	447	3.87	459
Kewaunee	47	2.32	37	1.81	41	26	1.28	40	35	1.69	52
La Crosse	326	3.57	364	3.95	390	362	3.88	391	368	3.90	429
Lafayette	48	2.76	38	2.18	54	51	2.97	62	48	2.81	56
Langlade	81	3.00	87	3.27	92	85	3.19	102	82	3.09	83
Lincoln	84	3.17	88	3.17	134	98	3.48	134	80	2.91	105
Manitowoc	227	2.70	228	2.68	294	228	2.69	266	220	2.66	300
Marathon	312	2.75	341	2.98	436	312	2.73	398	329	2.88	434
Marinette	137	3.42	120	2.95	144	119	2.88	136	96	2.32	130
Marquette	40	3.24	47	3.78	57	32	2.34	41	54	3.93	59
Milwaukee	3619	3.91	3518	3.91	3488	3501	3.81	3443	3135	3.35	3045
Monroe	141	3.99	157	4.40	178	168	4.63	175	149	4.16	184
Oconto	111	3.76	96	3.19	109	92	3.07	109	76	2.53	91
Oneida	153	4.78	151	4.70	177	169	5.20	185	120	3.70	145
Outagamie	333	2.49	460	3.36	583	438	3.19	490	480	3.53	547
Ozaukee	166	2.44	215	3.17	233	200	2.98	232	192	2.81	196
Pepin	22	2.86	25	3.27	49	21	2.69	28	13	1.68	16
Pierce	101	3.14	97	2.96	105	122	3.65	149	84	2.46	92
Polk	153	4.59	135	4.02	151	136	4.04	145	137	4.08	157
Portage	181	3.02	159	2.60	183	166	2.65	197	159	2.53	178
Price	53	3.31	41	2.54	93	58	3.45	67	47	2.96	55

(Continued)

Divorces and Annulments and Children Affected
Wisconsin Counties, 1983-1986
(Continued)

County	1983 Divorces & Annulments		1984 Divorces & Annulments			1985 Divorces & Annulments			1986 Divorces & Annulments		
	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Children Affected	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Children Affected	Number	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Children Affected
Racine	665	3.92	752	4.46	821	674	4.11	815	709	4.32	762
Richland	46	2.61	38	2.16	34	45	2.58	55	46	2.61	57
Rock	583	4.20	632	4.52	714	620	4.40	692	570	4.10	614
Rusk	53	3.38	64	4.08	90	54	3.48	62	48	3.16	54
St Croix	120	2.62	117	2.51	116	109	2.33	158	130	2.75	165
Sauk	139	3.12	148	3.27	148	156	3.40	164	147	3.17	160
Sawyer	57	4.21	48	3.52	53	42	3.07	49	63	4.67	56
Shawano	101	2.77	87	2.36	95	100	2.72	131	115	3.13	135
Sheboygan	331	3.23	329	3.17	409	332	3.24	346	303	2.96	344
Taylor	43	2.23	51	2.60	73	61	3.03	75	63	3.15	64
Trempealeau	77	2.93	92	3.45	115	58	2.18	69	85	3.15	109
Vernon	65	2.56	82	3.24	134	78	3.06	98	64	2.52	72
Vilas	64	3.71	59	3.35	50	66	3.73	70	66	3.70	68
Walworth	289	3.99	313	4.28	330	262	3.55	293	318	4.23	327
Washburn	46	3.35	43	3.07	58	52	3.74	60	81	5.70	92
Washington	280	3.19	263	2.99	336	288	3.39	340	267	3.11	339
Waukesha	1134	3.96	892	3.12	1071	988	3.50	1081	991	3.47	1182
Waupaca	149	3.33	135	2.97	184	157	3.47	173	162	3.53	201
Waushara	50	2.62	58	3.00	70	31	1.60	49	74	3.79	74
Winnebago	442	3.27	479	3.49	475	513	3.70	508	526	3.75	532
Wood	216	2.89	275	3.61	302	268	3.51	273	258	3.38	276

Reference Information:

1983 raw divorce data is from "Public Health Statistics, 1983". Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health, Wisconsin Health and Social Services (HSS). For years 1984-1986 the divorce and children-affected figures are from the HSS annual publication "Vital Statistics".

Divorce and annulment rates were calculated using population figures from other HSS publications, namely, "Population Estimates and Vital Rates, 1983-1984, Wisconsin Population Characteristics by County" (unpublished), "Wisconsin Population Characteristics by County, July 1 Estimate: (unpublished).

4708g

Visual Number: Marriage & Divorce 7

Title(s): Number of Divorces, Divorce Rates, and Number of Children Affected, 1983-1987, Wisconsin Counties.

Type: Line Graph

Years of Data Collection: Annually from 1983-1987.

Source Information:

These data are compiled by the Section of Vital Statistics, of Wisconsin Health and Social Services from county reports of divorces granted.

Definitions:

Children Affected. Children under age 18 who are related to either parent by blood, marriage or adoption.

Other Background:

In Wisconsin the divorce certificate is the responsibility of the clerk of court where the divorce decree is granted. The county clerk of court retains the records of the court, has the necessary information transcribed to the divorce certificate and forwards it to the Section of vital Statistics. Vital Statistics maintains a permanent repository for original records of birth, dealth, marriage and divorce.

You should be aware that a portion of the "children affected" in one year can appear in previous or later years. That is, because a parent may divorce several times over the years, each time the children of this parent are counted as "children affected". This makes it difficult to calculate how many total children are affected by divorce over a period of years.

Trends/Implications:

Wisconsin has only reported "children affected" since 1984, but one can reasonably assume that Wisconsin has generally followed the U.S. figures. The number of children affected has risen along with the number of divorces since the 1950's and began leveling off in the late 1970's.

Childrens' psychosocial well-being after divorce is ameliorated by quality parenting and time together with parents. Educational programs are needed which facilitate development of divorced parents' parenting style, and family communication and adjustment.

Appendix B

SAMPLE MEETING AGENDA

15 min. 1. Welcoming Activity - What do you know about your county?

15 min. 2. Progress Report - What's happened since we last met?
- Extension Home Economist

30 min. 3. Updating the Family Profile. - *Extension Home Economist*

30 min. 4. Introduction of Focus Questions. - *Informal small group work*

15 min. 5. Reports from small groups.

15 min. 6. Confirming on-going contact and role of committee members.

Planning and Support Committee...Year Three

Local Agenda

- Review Role of Local Planning and Support Committee
- Introduce New Committee Members
  - Highlight contributions of committee members to Family Living programs
- Results and Accomplishments: What Have Family Living Education Programs Accomplished in Your County?
- Update on Trends and Family Profile
  - Emphasis on delivery and changes in local situation
  - How does your county compare with national or state changes in situation
- Group Discussion by Small Group or by Entire Group

  Topic A. Results: Who needs to know these results? What types of results are needed? How can results support Family Living Education program efforts?

  Topic B. Delivery: Are UWEX delivery methods appropriate to the audience and what we know about how people learn? How could UWEX better target delivery? What groups should we work with?

  Discussion and Action Plan

Appendix C

In Profile

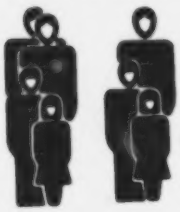
LINCOLN COUNTY

Compiled by:
Susan K. Futterer
Extension Home Economist

The trends reshaping our society -- divorce and remarriage, single parenthood, more women entering the workforce, the aging of the population, economic shifts -- are having a profound effect on families in Lincoln County.

Today, families face many new challenges including -- finding adequate child care, balancing work and family responsibilities, coping with stress, locating safe housing for the frail elderly, making healthy dietary choices.

Lincoln County University of Wisconsin-Extension programs are putting University knowledge to work to help families meet the challenges ahead.



THE CHANGING AMERICAN FAMILY

Nationwide, dual-income married couples now make up over 60 percent of all married couples with earnings. In Lincoln County, the typical family of the 1950s -- with a women who stays home with kids while her husband works -- no longer describes the majority of families.

- Women and Work Married women, including mothers of young children have entered the workforce in record numbers. The 1980 census found that more than 60 percent of Lincoln County women with school-age children were working for pay and about 40 percent of mothers with children under six were in the workforce that year. Those numbers are said to be growing.

- Single-Parent Families One out of every 11 families in Lincoln County is a single-parent family. Two-thirds of these families are headed by women. The proportion of single-parent families in Lincoln County has doubled since 1970.

GROWING ELDERLY POPULATION

The elderly are one of the fastest growing segments of the County's population. Residents 65 and older represent 1 out of every 6 persons. The elderly aged 85 and older are a small portion of the whole population, but are increasing most rapidly; in 1980 they totaled 391, by 2000 they are expected to more than double.

- Housing Concerns The vast majority of Wisconsinites aged 65 and older live in households--either with a spouse, a relative or alone. Only 8 percent live in nursing homes. One-third of Lincoln County's households are headed by persons 65 and older. About three-quarters of Wisconsin's residents over age 65 own their homes. Over half of these homes were built before 1950. Older homes typically require more maintenance, which older owners are often ill-prepared to meet financially and physically.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

The unemployment rate in Lincoln County in 1986 was 9.3 percent, slightly higher than the state average. Unemployment coupled with high prices and erratic growth rates make the management of family resources increasingly difficult and important. New types of insurance, fluctuating interest rates, new tax laws and high debt all add to the complexity of financial decision-making.

- Low-Income Families Two-thirds of Lincoln County's single-parent families are headed by women. Nationwide, the median income of families maintained by women is less than one-half that of husband-wife families. The female single parent is also twice as likely to be unemployed than either husbands or wives. More than one-third of families headed by women live in poverty. The number of families seeking social services has declined somewhat in Lincoln County -- both AFDC households and food stamp recipients dropped slightly in 1986. Yet, female-headed households and the elderly remain over-represented among the poor.

- Farm Families. The number of farms in Lincoln County, defined as those households who earn more than 50 percent of their income from farming, dropped from 360 in 1985 to just under 300 in 1986. Local experts say about 50 percent of farms are not meeting loan payments. Many farm families need help estimating their living expenses and reevaluating their goals as changes occur. Plans for financial security need to be reviewed and updated as laws, family economic status, and the economic climate changes.

CHILD CARE NEEDS

As the number of working mothers with young children has grown, so has the need for child care in both rural and urban areas. Child care professionals in Wisconsin report that the demand far exceeds the supply of day care slots. The most acute need is for infant day care.

- Day Care Nationwide, about half the day care takes place in family day care homes. In Lincoln County there are only eight licensed family day care homes. Research shows that the quality of day care affects child development. Family day-care providers are the most likely to be unlicensed and least likely to have formal training in child development. Only about one in five children in day care are cared for in a center. In Lincoln County, there are four licensed day care centers.

- After School Care With school-aged children a different problem exists. A Madison study found that 20 percent of parents of 10-15 year olds didn't know where their children were after school. Increasing numbers of children care for themselves during non-school hours (latch key). The Census Bureau's latest estimates suggest that 15 percent of children aged 7-13 whose mothers worked outside the home cared for themselves after school. Experts believe these numbers are rapidly increasing. Children caring for themselves is often, but not always, a problem. One Lincoln County community has recently accepted the challenge to provide supervised after-school activities for young people and help children develop self-care skills.

DIET AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Concerns about diet's link to heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis are increasing.

- Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Lincoln County and the nation. In 1985, 106 of the county's 279 deaths were due to heart disease. Heart disease is linked to high blood pressure, elevated blood cholesterol and obesity--disorders that affect an estimated 22 percent, 41 percent, and 28 percent of the nation's adult population respectively. Studies show men are less likely than women to know that they can reduce their risk of heart disease by having a lean body or consuming fewer calories and less fat.

- Osteoporosis affects 15-20 million individuals in the United States, causing 1.3 million fractures annually. Calcium consumption is one of the key to the disease's prevention. Although calcium consumption has risen, the USDA reports that 19-34 year-olds consume only 80 percent of the recommended level and 35-50 year-olds consume only 75 percent.

- Obesity increases an individual's risk of death from cancer. Cancer claimed the lives of 62 Lincoln County residents in 1985, one-fifth of the total deaths. Nationwide, more than one out of four Americans are overweight. Obesity among teenagers has increased 40 percent over the past 20 years, causing many young children to diet.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

With the growing number of dual-earner couples and single-parent households, family time together has become more limited. Yet, quality interaction between family members is necessary for personal development and healthy family functioning.

- Communication and Coping Skills. Much of the tension on today's families hinge on the integration of work and family life. Research has found that five factors are linked to healthy family functioning: 1) effective, positive communication; 2) democratic decision-making and appropriate conflict resolution skills; 3) clearly communicated support, care and regard for each other; 4) establishing networks of support in the extended family and community; and 5) a sense of family pride and loyalty.

- Delinquency, Child Abuse and Teen Pregnancy. Locally, there has been a serious increase in the numbers of delinquent teens. There are 30 children in foster care homes, four in group homes and at least five in institutions. Care for these children is expensive. The number of reported child abuse cases increased from 130 in 1985 to 144 in 1986. The number of out-of-wedlock births has increased slightly over the past decade, but their proportion of all births has increased significantly. Of 323 births in the County in 1986, 15 percent were to unwed mothers, compared to 346 births in 1976, with 10 percent to unwed mothers. Many of these out-of-wedlock births were to teenagers. The most recent statistics available show that 42 percent of unwed mothers in Lincoln County in 1985 were teenagers. These and other trends affecting the family require families, government and the private sector to work together to support family life.

Family Living Education - Lincoln County

Family Living Education programs help county residents anticipate and solve problems to improve the quality of their lives. They provide practical information based on University research on:

-- time and money management
-- housing decisions and maintenance
-- nutrition and health
-- developing healthy human relationships and strong families
-- gaining leadership skills and participating in public policy

Susan Futterer, Lincoln County Extension Home Economist, provides families with a practical application of research through helpful publications, news columns, radio spots, workshops and study-at-home courses. She gives Lincoln County residents direct access to University of Wisconsin experts in consumer resource management, family growth and development, family housing, food science and human nutrition, and leadership development and public policy. She is also the advisor to Lincoln County Extension Homemakers.

Lincoln County Family Living Education programs in 1988-1991 will focus on the working family and include an emphasis on:

- Strengthening Families The number of non-traditional families has increased -- single-parent families, dual-earner households, step families. These families often face stress and have limited time together. Many families also face financial difficulties, particularly farm families. Research shows that the communication skills needed to function effectively as healthy family units can be learned.

- Obtaining Quality Infant Day Care There are only four licensed family day care homes in Lincoln County that can provide infant day care. Two day care centers are licensed only for children aged 3 years and older; only one center takes children at 30 months of age. As maternal employment increases, the need for infant day care increases.

  Studies show that few parents are really careful when selecting day care. Over 60 percent fail to comparison shop. Parents assume (often incorrectly) that government regulations insure high quality care. Parents report they do not know what to look for in child care.

- Elderly Housing One-third of Lincoln County's households are headed by persons 65 years old or older. Studies show most of the homes they own were built before 1950 and need repairs that many cannot meet. Research shows that for all but the most extremely disabled elderly, it is cheaper to enable them to live independently than in nursing homes.

  There are many programs available to help elderly County residents live independently in their own homes. Yet many Lincoln County elderly would prefer living in smaller apartment units. Those who seek to move are faced with a one to two year wait. They also say that they want housing arrangements that are affordable, but do not have low-income restrictions.

Working for Wisconsin Families

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